

Meeting Summary
Northwest Plan
Advisory Committee
February 17, 2005
Northwest Library

Attendees

John Best, Far NW Coalition
Michael Bratka, Commercial Realtor
Lou Briggs, Worthington City Council
Mike Brown, Summerwood Civic Assoc.
Dave Ditmars, NW Civic Association
Paul Feldman, City of Worthington
Chris Holmes, Brookside Civic Assoc.
Charlie Johnson, Columbus Board of Realtors
Dawn Tyler Lee, OSU
John Macomber, Brookside Woods
Peggy McElroy, NW Civic Assoc.

Alan McKnight, Columbus Rec. and Parks Div.
Kimberly Nixon-Bell, Rau Lane Civic Assoc.
Laura Shinn, OSU
Steve Soble, Columbus Neighborhood Services
Suzanne Vais, Columbus Planning Division
Jane Weislogel, Shaker Square Civic Assoc.
Scott Whitlock, Rau Lane Civic Association
Charles Wood, Resident

Suzanne Vais, Senior Planner with the Columbus Planning Division, opened the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

First, Ms. Vais distributed a proposed schedule for the issue identification phase of the planning process. This phase of the process will most likely last until mid summer. Upcoming meeting dates are March 17, April 7 and May 12. All meetings will be held at the Northwest Library on Hard Road.

Ms. Vais indicated that there are two issues that are being handled through separate public processes. These two issues are the proposed rezoning on SR 161 near the railroad tracks and the proposed airport expansion. Ms. Vais indicated that she would keep the group informed of any meetings that are associated with these issues.

Then there was a brief discussion regarding the proposed airport expansion. Several people asked whether or not the city of Columbus would request that the airport conduct a FAR Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study. The city of Worthington and the Village of Riverlea have requested that this study be conducted. An issue was raised as to whether the airport currently complies with the Airport Environs Overlay, which is a part of the Columbus Zoning Code. Ms. Vais offered to look into this matter and report back to the group.

Then, Ms. Vais reviewed with the group the land use objectives that were established with the 1991 plan. In general, the group agreed with the objectives. John Best with the Far Northwest Coalition added that he would like to see the plan codified. Ms. Vais indicated that City Council would adopt the plan as a guide for future decisions and that some recommendations contained in the plan could be implemented through the zoning code. For instance applying a planning overlay to certain parts of the planning area.

Ms. Vais asked the group what they thought of adding objectives dealing with connectivity between uses and the use of planning overlays. The group agreed on these additions.

Next, Ms. Laura Shinn, Senior Campus Planner with The Ohio State University, gave a brief presentation on the future of the land owned by the university near the airport. Ms. Shinn indicated that while there are some draft plans for the area, none of the plans have been adopted by the Board of Trustees. Additionally, some of the plans are outdated and will need to be revised before going further.

Ms. Shinn explained that the College of Agriculture currently uses some of the land for animal research. This will most likely change over time to using the land for plant-based research.

Ms. Shinn also indicated that a market study was conducted in 1998. This market study indicated that the office and retail markets were saturated in this area and that residential uses could have more market potential. However, Ms. Shinn indicated that the study could be out of date and will have to be revisited.

Ms. Shinn stated that most of the decisions for a future use of the land would need to be made after the airport expansion issue has been decided.

Next, Ms. Vais stated that the discussion of the OSU owned land could not be complete without a discussion of SR 161. Ms. Vais asked the group what their future vision for SR 161 would look like. The group offered the following thoughts/comments:

- SR 161 has the potential to serve as an east-west connector for bikers and pedestrians. Columbus should tie into what Worthington has begun. A bikepath should be a part of any road-widening project.
- Worthington's draft comprehensive plan calls land use along SR 161 to be residential. The concept of urban village has been discussed.
- Any future land use recommendations must be tied to traffic recommendations. The issue of widening SR 161 will be examined in greater detail during the planning process.

- Need to promote this area as a potential area for light rail. If light rail is developed in this area, a bikepath makes more and more sense. Offer people more than one way (a car) to get to the light rail.
- Need to bring all parties together to discuss the future of SR 161. This should include, at a minimum, the city of Columbus, the city of Worthington, MORPC, and ODOT.
- Public open space is needed in the area and should be a part of any future development along SR 161.
- Developers should contribute to infrastructure funding.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:45 pm. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be March 17 at 7 pm at the Northwest Library.